DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Shaurette on November 17, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows: (the inserted words/sentence is indicated in bold, and deleted word(s) is/are in brackets)

Claim 1:

A communications device identification method comprising: providing identification information regarding a group of wireless identification devices within a wireless communications range of a reader; using the provided identification information, selecting one of a plurality of different search procedures for identifying unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range; and identifying at least some of the unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices using the selected one of the search procedures**[.]; and wherein the search procedures individually include a plurality of steps which are performed for identifying the unidentified one of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader, wherein the**

steps of the selected one of the search procedures are different than the steps of a non-selected one of the search procedures.

Claim 12:

A communications device identification method comprising: identifying a first of a plurality of wireless identification devices within a wireless communications range of a reader configured to communicate with the wireless identification devices; identifying a second of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader; selecting one of a plurality of different search procedures using the **[**identifyings**] identifications** of the first and the second of the wireless identification devices; and identifying at least one unidentified wireless identification device within the wireless communications range using the selected one of the search procedures**[.]; and wherein the search procedures individually include a plurality of steps which are performed to identify the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader, wherein the steps of the selected one of the search procedures are different than the steps of a non-selected one of the search procedures.**

Claim 32:

An article of manufacture comprising: at least one computer-readable storage medium comprising executable instructions stored thereon that are configured to cause processing circuitry of a wireless communications reader to: access information regarding a plurality of wireless identification devices which may be within a wireless communications range of the wireless communications reader; select one of a plurality

of different search procedures using the accessed information, wherein the different search procedures comprise procedures for identifying unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices; and identify unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices using the selected one of the search procedures**[.]; and wherein the search procedures individually comprise a plurality of steps which are performed by the processing circuitry for identifying unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader, and wherein the steps of the selected one of the search procedures are different than the steps of a non-selected one of the search procedures.**

Claim 41:

The method of claim 1 wherein each of the search procedures is configured to provide unique identifications which completely identify the **unidentified ones of the** wireless identification device.

Claim 47:

The article of claim 32 wherein each of the search procedures is configured to be executed by the processing circuitry independent of others of the search procedures to provide unique identifications which completely identify the **unidentified ones of the** wireless identification devices.

Claim 48:

The method of claim 1**,** wherein the search procedures are individually configured to enable identification of a plurality of the **unidentified ones of the** wireless

identification devices during a single execution of the respective individual search procedure.

Claim 49:

The article of claim 32, wherein the search procedures are individually configured to enable identification of a plurality of the **unidentified ones of the** wireless identification devices during a single execution of the respective individual search procedure.

Claim 51: On line 1, delete "**50**" and replace with "**1**".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-35, 37, 39, 41-49, 51, 52, 54, 56 and 58 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 12-15, 18, 19, 29-31, 37, 38, 45, 46, 53 and 54 are allowable for reasons indicated in the notice of allowance mailed September 24, 2010.

Regarding **claim 1**, Becker et al 20040046642 discloses a communications device identification method comprising: providing identification information (group address, see p.4, [0048]) regarding a group of wireless identification devices (RFID tags, see fig. 1, p.2, [0025]) within a wireless communications range of a reader (tag reader 12, see fig. 1, p.2, [0025]); and identifying at least some of the unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices using a search procedure (using the group address to interrogate and identify a group of RFID tags, see p.5, [0056]-[0059]).

The instant invention discloses using the provided identification information, selecting one of a plurality of different search procedures for identifying unidentified

ones of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range; and identifying at least some of the unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices using the selected one of the search procedures, wherein the search procedures individually include a plurality of steps which are performed for identifying unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader, wherein the steps of the selected one of the search procedures are different than the steps of a non-selected one of the search procedures. The above novel features in combination with other limitations of the claim are neither taught, suggested, nor made obvious by Becker et al or any other prior art of record. Claims 2-7, 9-11, 35, 36, 41, 42, 48, 51 and 52 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Regarding **claim 17**, Becker et al 20040046642 discloses a communications device identification method comprising: providing information regarding a range of identifiers of wireless communications devices which may be within a wireless communications range of a reader; providing information regarding a number of wireless communications devices which may be within the wireless communications range.

The instant invention discloses selecting a binary search procedure if M < N/LOG2(N), wherein M is the range of the identifiers of the wireless communications devices and N is the number of wireless communications devices; and selecting a walk-through search procedure if M > N/LOG2(N). The above novel features in combination

with other limitations of the claim are neither taught, suggested, nor made obvious by Becker et al or any other prior art of record.

Regarding **claim 20**, Becker et al 20040046642 discloses a wireless communications reader (tag reader 16, see fig. 1, p.2, [0025]) comprising: an antenna configured to communicate wireless signals within a wireless communications range (antenna 16, see fig. 1, p.2, [0026]); and processing circuitry coupled with the antenna (microprocessor 54, see fig. 3, p.4, [0046]) and configured to implement wireless communications with a plurality of wireless identification devices (RFID tags 14, see fig. 1, p.2, [0025]) within the wireless communications range via the antenna (see fig. 1, p.2, [0025]).

The instant invention discloses said processing circuitry being configured to analyze a number of wireless identification devices which may be present within the wireless communications range with respect to a range of identifiers of wireless identification devices, which may be present within the wireless communications range, to select one of a plurality of search procedures using the analysis, and to identify at least one of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range using the selected search procedure wherein the search procedures individually include a plurality of steps which are performed to identify the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader, wherein the steps of the selected one of the search procedures are different than the steps of a non-selected one of the search procedures. The above novel features in combination with other limitations of the claim are neither taught, suggested, nor made obvious by Becker et al

or any other prior art of record. Claims 21-28, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 56 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 20.

Regarding **claim 32**, Becker discloses an article of manufacture comprising: at least one computer-readable storage medium comprising executable instructions stored thereon (see figs. 1 and 3, p.2, [0026], p.3-4, [0045]) that are configured to cause processing circuitry of a wireless communications reader (tag reader 12, see fig. 1, p.2, [0026]) to: access information (group address, see p.4, [0048]) regarding a plurality of wireless identification devices which may be within a wireless communications range of the wireless communications reader (see p.4, [0048], p.5, [0056]-[0058]).

The instant invention discloses selecting one of a plurality of different search procedures using the accessed information, wherein the different search procedures comprise procedures for identifying unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices; and identify unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices using the selected one of the search procedures, wherein the search procedures individually include a plurality of steps which are performed for identifying unidentified ones of the wireless identification devices within the wireless communications range of the reader, wherein the steps of the selected one of the search procedures are different than the steps of a non-selected one of the search procedures. The above novel features in combination with other limitations of the claim are neither taught, suggested, nor made obvious by Becker et al or any other prior art of record. Claims 33, 34, 47, 49, and 58 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 32.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OLUMIDE T. AJIBADE AKONAI whose telephone number is (571)272-6496. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8.30p-5p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Appiah can be reached on 571-272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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